

In the Claims

Please enter the below-indicated amendments:

1. (Currently Amended) A regulatory compliance method for a plurality of wastewater treatment systems, said plurality of wastewater treatment systems being installed at plurality of different locations, said wastewater treatment systems being serviced by one or more service companies having one or more service personnel, there being at least one regulatory body for monitoring said plurality of wastewater treatment systems with respect to timely servicing of said plurality of wastewater treatment systems, said method comprising:

providing that said plurality of wastewater treatment systems comprise a multitude of separately owned wastewater treatment systems at a multitude of different physical locations, each of said multitude of separately owned wastewater treatment systems requiring routine inspections at least once a year but not more than once a month;

providing a third party which is an independent non-governmental entity;

electronically monitoring for operational equipment status at each of said plurality of wastewater treatment systems utilizing one or more first sensors mounted at said plurality of wastewater treatment systems;

electronically notifying said one or more service companies of operational problems detected at each of said plurality of wastewater treatment systems utilizing said one or more first sensors mounted at said plurality of wastewater treatment systems, said electronically notifying comprising sending data produced by said one or more first sensors via a telephone line;

electronically detecting a physical presence or a physical absence of said one or more service personnel at each of said plurality of wastewater treatment systems utilizing one or more second sensors;

selecting said one or more second sensors so as to be suitably matched for use with said multitude of separately owned wastewater treatment systems;

producing digital data representative of said physical presence or physical absence of said one or more service personnel at each of said plurality of wastewater treatment systems as a result of said step of electronically detecting a physical presence or physical absence of said one or more service personnel at each of said plurality of wastewater treatment systems utilizing said one or more second sensors;

electronically determining a time associated with said physical presence of said one or more service personnel at each of said plurality of wastewater treatment systems based on said digital data produced by utilizing said one or more second sensors;

electronically storing inspection data related to scheduled inspections for each of said plurality of wastewater treatment systems;

electronically storing operational data related to said operational equipment status detected at each of said plurality of wastewater treatment systems;

electronically storing time data related to said physical presence of said one or more service personnel at each of said plurality of wastewater treatment systems;

generating a report for said regulatory body related to compliance with said scheduled inspection and timely repairs for each of said plurality of ~~plurality of~~ wastewater treatment systems based on said inspection data, said operational data, and said time data; and

said third party providing services relating to at least one or more of said previous steps.

2. (Previously Presented) The regulatory compliance method of claim 1, wherein said third party provides certification services.

3. (Previously Presented) The regulatory compliance method of claim 1, wherein said third party administers said steps of electronically storing operation data, automatically storing time data and generating said report.

4. (Original) The regulatory compliance method of claim 1, further comprising:

generating a website operable for selectively providing said inspection data, said operational data, and said time data to respective computers of said one or more service companies and said regulatory body.

5. (Original) The regulatory compliance method of claim 4, further comprising:
enabling selective generation of said report by said regulatory body utilizing said website.

6. (Original) The regulatory compliance method of claim 4, wherein a format of said report is selectable by said respective computer of said regulatory body.

7. (Currently Amended) The regulatory compliance method of claim 4, further comprising:
providing an inspection schedule for said plurality of wastewater treatment systems that is accessible through said ~~computer network presence~~ website by said one or more service companies.

8. (Currently Amended) The regulatory compliance method of claim 1, wherein said step of electronically detecting a physical presence utilizing said one or more second sensors further comprises providing one or more mechanical switches adjacent each of said plurality of wastewater treatment systems to be activated by said one or more service personnel for recording said physical presence.

9. (Currently Amended) The regulatory compliance method of claim 1, wherein said step of electronically detecting a physical presence further comprises providing an electronic reader adjacent each of said plurality of wastewater treatment systems to be activated by a respective identifier carried by each of said one or more service personnel for recording said physical

presence.

10. (Previously Presented) The regulatory compliance method of claim 1, electronically determining whether a respective service contract between one or more owners of said plurality of wastewater systems and said one or more service companies has been timely renewed.

11. (Previously Presented) The regulatory compliance method of claim 10, further comprising:

providing said regulatory body with capability of automatically generating notices of noncompliance to said one or more owners of said plurality of wastewater systems or said one or more service companies where service contracts have not been timely renewed.

12. (Previously Presented) A regulatory compliance system operable with a plurality of wastewater treatment systems, said wastewater treatment systems being serviced by one or more service companies having one or more service personnel, there being a regulatory body for monitoring said plurality of wastewater treatment systems with respect to timely servicing of said plurality of wastewater treatment systems, said system comprising:

an electronic monitor for producing operational data related to operational problems at each of said plurality of wastewater treatment systems;

a physical presence detector for producing personnel data related to a presence of said one or more service personnel at each of said plurality of wastewater treatment systems;

a clock for providing clock data related to said personnel data for each of said plurality of wastewater treatment systems; and

one or more data storage elements for electronically storing inspection data related to scheduled inspections requiring said physical presence of said one or more service personnel for said plurality of wastewater treatment systems, said one or more storage elements being operable for storing said operational data, said personnel data, and said clock data; and

one or more processors programmed for making one or more reports available to said regulatory body, said one or more reports evidencing said physical presence of said service personnel for said scheduled inspection and for timely repairs for each of said plurality of wastewater treatment systems based on said operational data, said personnel data and said clock data.

13. (Previously Presented) The regulatory compliance system of claim 12, further comprising:

a computer network operated by a third party which is an independent non-governmental entity and does not sell or repair or own said plurality of wastewater treatment systems, said computer network being operable for communicating data from said one or more storage elements with one or more computers of said regulatory body.

14. (Original) The regulatory compliance system of claim 12, wherein said clock data provides time and date of said presence of said one or more service personnel at each of said plurality of wastewater treatment systems.

15. (Currently Amended) The regulatory compliance system of claim 12, wherein said one or more storage elements are utilized for storing responsibility data related to ~~said a~~ a plurality of different owners for said plurality of wastewater treatment systems.

16. (Original) The regulatory compliance system of claim 15, wherein said responsibility data comprises address information for contacting responsible parties for said plurality of wastewater treatment systems.

17. (Previously Presented) The regulatory compliance system of claim 12, further comprising one or more network servers operated by a third party which is a non-governmental

entity, said one or more network servers being programmed to generate a website accessible by said one or more computers of said regulatory body.

18. (Original) The regulatory compliance system of claim 17, wherein said website comprises selectable options for generating information related to compliance with scheduled inspections and timely repairs for said plurality of wastewater treatment systems, said selectable options comprising an option to provide information indicating noncompliance with regulations related to said scheduled inspections and timely repairs.

19. (Currently Amended) The regulatory compliance system of claim 17, wherein said website further comprises selectable options for generating information related to failure to renew service contracts along with said address information for transmission to responsible parties for said plurality of wastewater treatment systems.

20. (Previously Presented) A regulatory compliance system operable with a plurality of environmental equipment systems, said environmental equipment systems being serviced by one or more service personnel, there being a regulatory body for monitoring said plurality of environmental equipment systems, said system comprising:

one or more electronic monitors physically positioned at each of said plurality of environmental equipment systems for automatically producing operational data related to operation of each of said plurality of environmental equipment systems;

one or more data storage elements for electronically storing inspection data related to scheduled inspections of said plurality of environmental equipment systems, for storing said operational data, and for storing responsibility data related to responsible parties for said plurality of environmental equipment systems; and

one or more network servers for controlling computer network communications between said one or more storage elements and one or more computers of said regulatory body such that

said one or more network servers are programmed to generate a website accessible by said one or more computers of said regulatory body through said computer network, said website comprising selectable options for generating reports related to compliance with said scheduled inspections, said operational data, and said responsible parties for said plurality of environmental equipment systems.

21. (Previously Presented) The regulatory compliance system of claim 20, wherein said website is operated by a third party which is a non-governmental entity.

22. (Previously Presented) The regulatory compliance system of claim 20, further comprising at least one computer program operable to determine noncompliance with scheduled inspection requirements based on computer data comprising computer data generated utilizing said one or more said electronic monitors, wherein said selectable options comprise an option to provide noncompliance reports indicating noncompliance with scheduled inspection requirements and timely repair requirements for said plurality of environmental equipment systems, said reports indicating noncompliance and comprising address information related to said responsible parties.

23. (Original) The regulatory compliance system of claim 20, wherein said selectable options comprise an option to provide noncompliance reports indicating failure to renew a service contract.

24. (Previously Presented) The regulatory compliance system of claim 20, further comprising selectable printing options accessible by said regulatory body for automatically printing notices related to noncompliance of said scheduled inspections and timely repair regulations for transmission to said responsible parties for said plurality of environmental equipment systems, and at least one computer program operable to determine said

noncompliance utilizing computer data, said computer data comprising computer data generated utilizing said one or more said electronic monitors.

25. (Original) The regulatory compliance system of claim 20, wherein said responsibility data comprises ownership data related to ownership of said plurality of environmental equipment systems.

26. (Original) The regulatory compliance system of claim 20, further comprising a personnel detector for said plurality of environmental equipment systems for producing personnel data related to detecting an actual physical presence of said one or more service personnel at said plurality of environmental equipment systems.

27. (Previously Presented) A regulatory compliance method operable with a plurality of environmental equipment systems, said environmental equipment systems being serviced by one or more service personnel, there being a regulatory body for monitoring said plurality of environmental equipment systems, said method comprising:

providing an electronic connection from each of said plurality of environmental equipment systems to one or more computers;

providing one or more electronic sensors at each of said plurality of environmental equipment systems to detect one or more physical phenomena;

receiving digital data by said one or more computers from said plurality of environmental equipment systems through said electronic connection from each of said plurality of environmental equipment systems, said digital data representing said one or more physical phenomena;

electronically storing said digital data from said plurality of environmental equipment systems;

electronically connecting to one or more computers of said regulatory body; and

electronically communicating with said one or more computers of said regulatory body relating to said digital data received from said plurality of environmental equipment systems.

28. (Currently Amended) The regulatory compliance method of claim 27, wherein said step of electronically connecting further comprises:

making available a network connection to said one or more computers of said regulatory body.

29. (Previously Presented) The regulatory compliance method of claim 27, further comprising:

said regulatory body utilizing said digital data for generating reports related to said plurality of environmental equipment systems.

30. (Original) The regulatory compliance method of claim 27, further comprising:
generating reports related to compliance with scheduled inspections and timely repairs for said plurality of environmental equipment systems.

31. (Original) The regulatory compliance method of claim 27, further comprising:
detecting a time and date of a physical presence of said one or more service personnel at said plurality of environmental equipment systems.

32. (Currently Amended) The regulatory compliance method of claim 27, further comprising providing a third party which is an independent non-governmental entity, said third party administering storing of contact data related to communicating with parties responsible for said plurality of environmental equipment systems.

33. (Currently Amended) The regulatory compliance method of claim 32, wherein said

contact data related to communicating with parties responsible for said plurality of environmental equipment systems comprises address information for contacting said parties.

34. (Currently Amended) The regulatory compliance method of claim 27, further comprising a plurality of electronic monitors positioned at said plurality of environmental equipment systems and wherein said digital data further comprises data related to ~~said~~ scheduled inspections, data related to system operations functions detected electronically at said plurality of environmental equipment systems, and data collected electronically related to system inspections and repairs.

35. (Currently Amended) The regulatory compliance method of claim 27, further comprising:

collecting time and date data related to a service personnel presence at each of said plurality of environmental equipment systems;

electronically comparing time and date data relating to requirements for ~~said~~ scheduled inspections and ~~said~~ timely repairs; and

generating reports related to noncompliance with scheduled inspections and timely repairs.

36. (Previously Presented) The regulatory compliance method of claim 27, further comprising:

generating noncompliance notices indicating failure to renew a service contract with said one or more service personnel or companies related thereto.

37. (Previously Presented) The regulatory compliance method of claim 27, further comprising:

generating a record of when said environmental equipment system starts initial operation

for a first time or after a shutdown wherein repairs are made utilizing data produced by one or more electronic monitors positioned in the vicinity of said environmental equipment system.

38. (Original) The regulatory compliance method of claim 37, further comprising:
detecting a physical presence of one or more service personnel for said initial operation.

39. (Previously Presented) A compliance method operable with a plurality of environmental equipment systems, said environmental equipment systems being serviced by one or more service personnel, there being a regulatory body for monitoring said plurality of environmental equipment systems, said method comprising:

collecting digital data electronically generated by electronic sensor equipment at each of said plurality of environmental equipment systems;

electronically storing said digital data from said plurality of environmental equipment systems;

producing a website; and

providing access to said website by said regulatory body whereby reports related to said digital data from said plurality of environmental equipment systems is retrievable by said regulatory body.

40. (Original) The regulatory compliance method of claim 39, further comprising:
providing access to said website by one or more service companies whereby at least selective of said digital data from said plurality of environmental equipment systems is retrievable by said one or more service companies.

41. (Original) The regulatory compliance method of claim 39, further comprising:
providing that said regulatory body may utilize said digital data for generating reports related to said plurality of environmental equipment systems.

42. (Original) The regulatory compliance method of claim 39, further comprising:
generating reports related to compliance with scheduled inspections and timely repairs for
said plurality of environmental equipment systems.

43. (Currently Amended) The regulatory compliance method of claim 42, further
comprising:
generating noncompliance notices indicating noncompliance of said scheduled
inspections and timely repair regulations for said plurality of environmental equipment methods
including data related to communicating with parties responsible for said plurality of
environmental equipment systems.

44. (Currently Amended) The regulatory compliance method of claim 43, wherein said
data related to communicating with parties responsible for said plurality of environmental
equipment systems comprises address information for contacting said parties.

45. (Currently Amended) The regulatory compliance method of claim 39, further
comprising storing data related to communicating with parties responsible for said plurality of
environmental equipment systems.

46. (Currently Amended) The regulatory compliance method of claim 39, wherein said
digital data further comprises digital data related to ~~said~~ scheduled inspections, digital data
related to system operations functions detected electronically, and digital data collected
electronically related to system inspections and repairs.

47. (Original) The regulatory compliance method of claim 39, further comprising:
electronically collecting data related to a physical presence of said one or more service
personnel at said plurality of environmental equipment systems.

48. (Original) The regulatory compliance method of claim 39, further comprising:
generating noncompliance notices indicating failure to renew service contracts.

49. (Currently Amended) A compliance method for monitoring ~~at least thousands of homeowner~~ a multitude of separately owned environmental equipment systems with respect to timely servicing of said ~~plurality of~~ multitude of separately owned environmental equipment systems, said multitude of separately owned environmental equipment systems being serviced by one or more service personnel, said method comprising:

electronically producing operational data related to operations at each of said ~~at least thousands of homeowner~~ multitude of separately owned environmental equipment systems utilizing one or more sensors mounted at said multitude of separately owned environmental equipment systems;

producing personnel data related to a physical presence of said one or more service personnel at each of said ~~at least thousands of homeowner~~ equipment systems utilizing a service personnel sensor;

electronically providing clock data related to said personnel data for each of said ~~at least thousands of homeowner~~ equipment systems;

automatically collecting said operational data, said personnel data, and said clock data;
and

electronically generating accumulated reports relating to said operational data, said personnel data, and said clock data, ~~and said inspection data.~~

50. (Previously Presented) The compliance method of claim 49, further comprising:
electronically storing inspection data related to scheduled inspection requirements requiring said physical presence of said one or more service personnel for each of said ~~at least thousands of homeowner~~ equipment systems.

51. (Previously Presented) The compliance method of claim 49, further comprising:
utilizing an independent non-governmental entity as a third party to administer at least
said step of electronically providing clock data.

52. (Previously Presented) The compliance method of claim 49, further comprising:
generating a website accessible by a regulatory body.

53. (Previously Presented) The compliance method of claim 49, further comprising:
generating reports related to compliance with scheduled inspections and timely repairs for
at least selective of said at least thousands of homeowner equipment systems.

54. (Previously Presented) The compliance method of claim 50, further comprising:
generating notices related to noncompliance with said scheduled inspection requirements
or timely repair requirements for transmission to parties responsible for respective of said at least
thousands of homeowner equipment systems.

55. (Previously Presented) The regulatory compliance method of claim 49, further
comprising:

generating a record of when one or more of said at least thousands of homeowner
equipment systems starts initial operation for the first time or after shutdown during which
repairs are made.

56. (Original) The regulatory compliance method of claim 55, further comprising:
detecting a physical presence of one or more service personnel for said initial operation.

57. (Previously Presented) The compliance method of claim 49, further comprising:
generating noncompliance notices indicating failure to renew service contracts with said

one or more service personnel or companies related thereto.

58. (Currently Amended) A compliance method operable for use with a plurality of environmental equipment systems for monitoring said plurality of environmental equipment systems with respect to timely servicing of said plurality of environmental equipment systems, said method comprising:

providing a third party which is an independent entity;

electronically collecting operational data related to operations at each of said plurality of environmental equipment systems;

producing personnel data related to a physical presence of ~~said~~ one or more service personnel at said plurality of environmental equipment systems;

providing clock data related to said personnel data for each of said plurality of environmental equipment systems;

collecting said operational data, said personnel data, and said clock data;

electronically storing inspection data related to scheduled inspections requiring said physical presence of said one or more service personnel for each of said plurality of environmental equipment systems; and

said third party providing services relating to at least one of the above steps.

59. (Original) The regulatory compliance method of claim 58, further comprising:

producing a website accessible by said regulatory body whereby reports related to accumulated operational data, personnel data, clock data, and inspection data from said plurality of environmental equipment systems are retrievable by a regulatory body.

60. (Previously Presented) The compliance method of claim 59, further comprising:

said third party providing at least selective access to said website by one or more service companies whereby at least partial access to said accumulated reports related to operational data,

said personnel data, said clock data, and said inspection data for said plurality of environmental equipment systems is retrievable by said one or more service companies.

61. (Previously Presented) The compliance method of claim 58, further comprising:
providing an electronic connection to a regulatory body such that said regulatory body selectively generates reports based on said operational data, said personnel data, said clock data, and said inspection data related to said plurality of environmental equipment systems.

62. (Original) The compliance method of claim 58, further comprising:
generating reports related to compliance with said scheduled inspections and timely repairs for said plurality of environmental equipment systems.

63. (Currently Amended) The compliance method of claim 59, further comprising:
generating noncompliance notices indicating noncompliance of said scheduled inspections and timely repair regulations for said plurality of environmental equipment systems whereby said noncompliance notices include data related to communicating with parties responsible for said plurality of environmental equipment systems.

64. (Previously Presented) The compliance method of claim 59, further comprising:
generating noncompliance notices indicating failure to renew service contracts with one or more service personnel who service said plurality of environmental equipment systems or companies related thereto.

65. (Currently Amended) A compliance system for a plurality of environmental equipment systems operable for monitoring said plurality of environmental equipment systems at a plurality of different sites and with respect to timely servicing of said plurality of environmental equipment systems, there being at least one regulatory body for monitoring said plurality of

environmental equipment systems with respect to timely servicing of said plurality of ~~wastewater treatment~~ environmental equipment systems, said system comprising:

an electronic monitor for producing operational data related to environmental equipment operational status at each of said plurality of environmental equipment systems;

a physical presence detector for producing personnel data operable to verify the physical presence of one or more service personnel at each of said plurality of environmental equipment systems;

a clock for providing clock data related to said personnel data for each of said plurality of environmental equipment systems;

one or more processors for collecting said operational data, said personnel data, and said clock data for said plurality of environmental equipment systems; and

a computer network, said computer network being operable for communicating data from one or more storage elements to one or more computers of said regulatory body.

66. (Previously Presented) The compliance system of claim 65, wherein said one or more data storage elements are utilized for electronically storing inspection data related to scheduled inspections requiring said physical presence of said one or more service personnel for each of said plurality of environmental equipment systems, said one or more storage elements being operable for storing said operational data, said personnel data, and said clock data.

67. (Previously Presented) The compliance system of claim 65, further comprising: an independent non-governmental entity for administering said one or more data storage elements.

68. (Original) The compliance system of claim 65, wherein said clock data provides a time and a date of said physical presence of said one or more service personnel at said plurality

of environmental equipment systems.

69. (Original) The compliance system of claim 65, wherein said one or more storage elements are utilized for storing responsibility data related to a plurality of different owners for said plurality of environmental equipment systems.

70. (Currently Amended) The compliance system of claim ~~69~~ 65, wherein said responsibility data comprises address information for contacting responsible parties for said plurality of environmental equipment systems.

71. (Currently Amended) The ~~regulatory~~ compliance system of claim 65, further comprising one or more network servers programmed to generate a website accessible by said one or more computers of a regulatory body.

72. (Currently Amended) The ~~regulatory~~ compliance system of claim 71, wherein said website comprises selectable options for generating information related to compliance with scheduled inspection requirements and timely repair requirements for said plurality of environmental equipment systems, said selectable options comprising an option to provide information indicating noncompliance with regulations related to said scheduled inspection requirements and said timely repair requirements.

73. (Currently Amended) The ~~regulatory~~ compliance system of claim 65, further comprising:

means for generating a record of when said environmental equipment system is placed in operation for the first time or after being shut down for repairs.

74. (Currently Amended) The ~~regulatory~~ compliance system of claim 73, further

comprising:

means for detecting a physical presence of one or more service personnel related to said equipment system being placed into operation.

75.(Currently Amended) A regulatory compliance method operable with a plurality of environmental equipment systems, said plurality of environmental equipment systems being serviced by one or more service companies having one or more service personnel, there being a third party and a regulatory body for monitoring said plurality of environmental equipment systems with respect to timely servicing of said plurality of environmental equipment systems, said method comprising:

~~permanently~~ mounting one or more electronic sensors proximal to each of said plurality of environmental equipment systems;

electronically detecting physical phenomena related to servicing said plurality of environment equipments system with said one or more electronic sensors so as to electronically transform said physical phenomena related to servicing of said plurality of environmental equipment systems into digital data related to timely servicing of said plurality of environmental equipment systems;

electronically sending said digital data related to timely servicing of said plurality of environmental equipment systems from each of said plurality of environmental equipments systems;

electronically receiving said digital data related to said timely servicing of said plurality of environmental equipment systems by one or more computers of said third party;

electronically storing said digital data related to said timely servicing of said plurality of environmental equipment systems; and

electronically reporting from said third party to said regulatory body regarding said received digital data relating to said timely servicing of said plurality of environmental equipment systems.

76. (Previously Presented) The regulatory compliance method of claim 75, further comprising:

making available a network connection to one or more computers of said regulatory body from said one or more computers of said third party.

77. (Original) The regulatory compliance method of claim 75, further comprising:
generating reports related to noncompliance for said plurality of environmental equipment systems, and

sending said reports to said one or more service companies and to parties responsible for said plurality of environmental equipment systems.

78. (Original) The regulatory compliance method of claim 75, further comprising:
generating reports related to compliance with scheduled inspections and timely repairs for said plurality of environmental equipment systems.

79. (Original) The regulatory compliance method of claim 75, further comprising:
detecting a time and date of a physical presence of said one or more service personnel at said plurality of environmental equipment systems.

80. (Original) The regulatory compliance method of claim 75, further comprising storing contact data related to communicating with parties responsible for said plurality of environmental equipment.

81. (Currently Amended) The regulatory compliance method of claim 80, wherein said contact data ~~is~~ related to communicating with parties responsible for said plurality of environmental equipment comprises address information for contacting said parties.

82. (Previously Presented) The regulatory compliance method of claim 75, wherein said digital data further comprises data related to schedules for inspections, data related to system operations functions detected electronically, and data collected electronically related to a physical presence of said one or more service personnel at said plurality of environmental systems for inspections and repairs.

83. (Currently Amended) The regulatory compliance method of claim 75, further comprising:

collecting time and date data related to a service personnel presence at each of said plurality of environmental equipment systems,

electronically comparing time and date data relating to requirements for scheduled inspections and said timely servicing repairs, and

generating reports related to noncompliance with scheduled inspections and timely repairs.

84. (Previously Presented) The regulatory compliance method of claim 75, further comprising:

electronically generating noncompliance notices indicating failure to renew a service contract.

85. (Previously Presented) The regulatory compliance method of claim 75, further comprising:

electronically generating a record of when said environmental equipment system starts initial operation for a first time or after a shutdown wherein repairs are made utilizing said digital data.

86. (Previously Presented) The regulatory compliance method of claim 85, further

comprising:

electronically detecting a physical presence of one or more service personnel for said initial operation.

87. (Currently Amended) The regulatory compliance method of claim 75, wherein said ~~one or more~~ plurality of environmental equipment systems comprise one or more wastewater treatment systems.

88. (Previously Presented) The regulatory compliance method of claim 75, wherein said third party is an entity which provides certification services.